

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion terminating at a proximal end, the proximal end having a diameter substantially equal to a diameter of the proximal portion[[, and]] such that the proximal end can be ~~being~~-inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted, to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion of the guide wire body; and

a retainer extending parallel to the guide wire body along a length between the distal end portion of the guide wire body and the proximal end portion of the guide wire body, the retainer having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retainer being joined to the distal end portion of the guide wire body to prevent relative movement between the distal end portion of the guide wire body and the distal end portion of the retainer, the proximal end portion of the retainer being retained by an operator, the retainer being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance,

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted.

2. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said retainer is a retaining wire.

3. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said retaining wire is a resin, a metal or a metal coated with a resin having a stiffness high enough not to be intertwined with said wire.

4. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said retaining wire has a separable junction with said guide wire body.

5. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said guide wire body is provided with a soft coupling member of an elastic material formed on the distal end portion thereof, the distal end portion of said retaining wire being removably coupled to the coupling member.

6. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A guide wire according to claim 2,
comprising:

a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted, to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion of the guide wire body;
and

a retainer extended along the guide wire body, the retainer having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retainer being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer being retained by an operator, the retainer being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance;

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted, said retainer is a retaining wire and the respective sectional shapes of said guide wire body and said retaining wire form a substantially circular shape when the sectional shapes are joined together as the two are arranged side by side.

7. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 6, wherein said retaining wire is an arcuate wire having a substantially crescent sectional shape.

8. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said guide wire body and the retaining wire are provided with insulating coating layers, individually.

9. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein said retaining wire is a ribbon-shaped wire having a substantially flat sectional shape.

10. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is provided with a retaining portion having a diameter larger than that of any other portion.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A guide wire ~~according to claim 2,~~
comprising:

a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted, to guide

the appliance from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion of the guide wire body;
and

a retainer extended along the guide wire body, the retainer having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retainer being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer being retained by an operator, the retainer being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance;

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted, said retainer is a retaining wire and the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is held by means of a wire fixing portion attached to said endoscope.

12. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A guide wire according to claim 2,
comprising:

a guide wire body to be passed through a channel of an endoscope, the guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted, to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion of the guide wire body;
and

a retainer extended along the guide wire body, the retainer having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retainer being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer being

retained by an operator, the retainer being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance;

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retainer is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted, said retainer is a retaining wire and the proximal end portion of said retaining wire is held by means of a wire fixing portion attached to an operating section of said endoscope.

13. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein the length of said retaining wire is adjusted to 1,000 mm to 2,000 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, wherein the length of said guide wire body is adjusted to 3,500 mm or less.

15. (Previously Presented) An endoscope using a guide wire, comprising:
an endoscope body having an appliance passage channel;
a guide wire to be passed through said channel, the guide wire comprising;
a guide wire body having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, and
being inserted into a human body through the channel, the guide wire body being inserted through a bore which is formed on an appliance and in which the guide wire is to be inserted to guide the appliance from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, and

a retaining wire extended along said guide wire body,

the retaining wire having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the retaining wire being coupled to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retaining wire being retained by an operator, the retaining wire being arranged outside the bore of the appliance in a state in which the guide wire body is inserted through the bore of the appliance to guide the appliance;

wherein when the appliance is moved relative to the endoscope and guided to the distal end portion of the guide wire body, the proximal end portion of the retaining wire is retained by the operator and the relative movement of the guide wire body of the endoscope is thereby restricted;

a wire fixing portion provided on the endoscope body, for holding the proximal end portion of said retaining wire.

16. (Original) An endoscope according to claim 15, wherein said wire fixing portion is located on an operating section of said endoscope body.

17-55. (Cancelled)